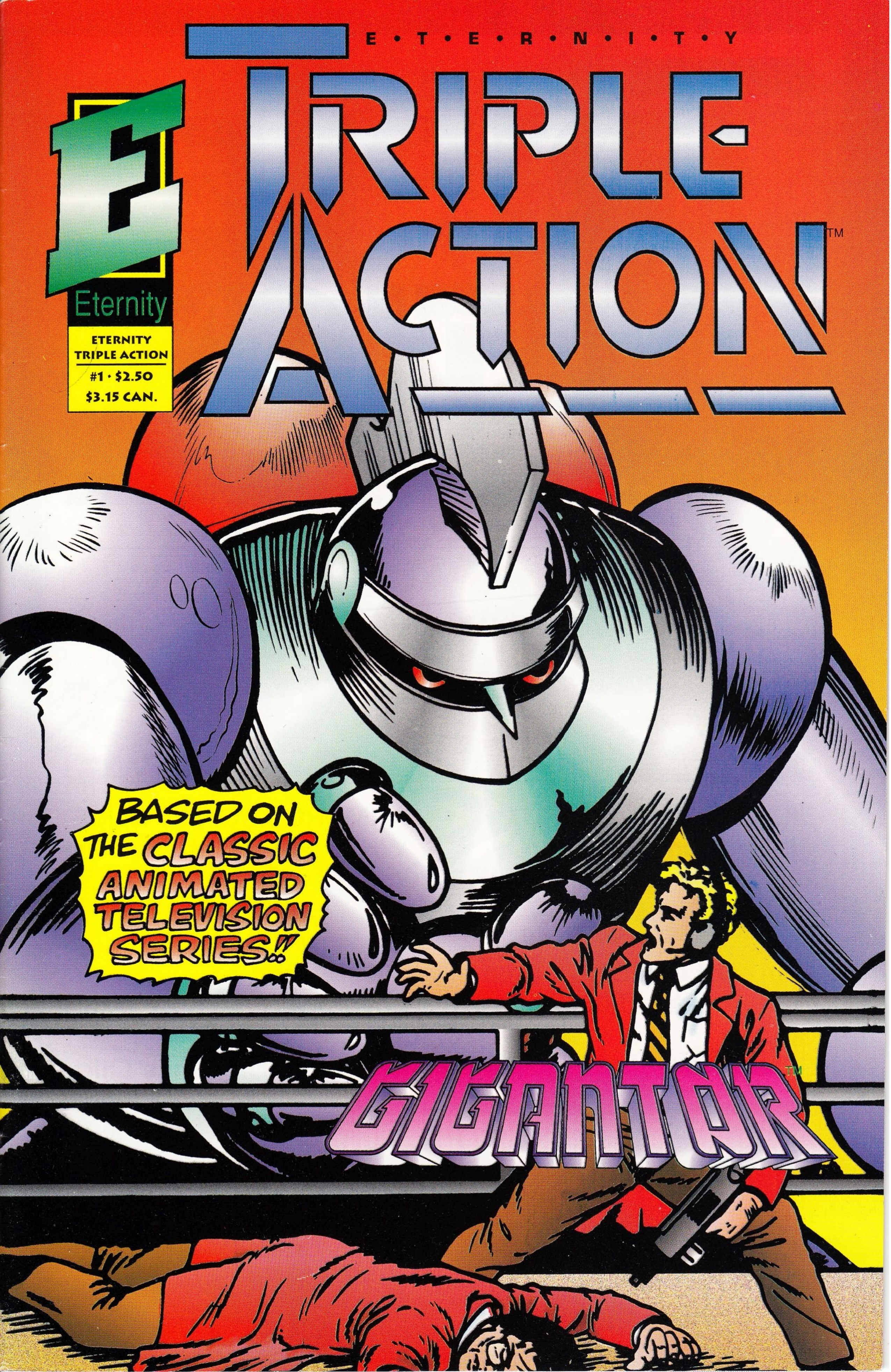
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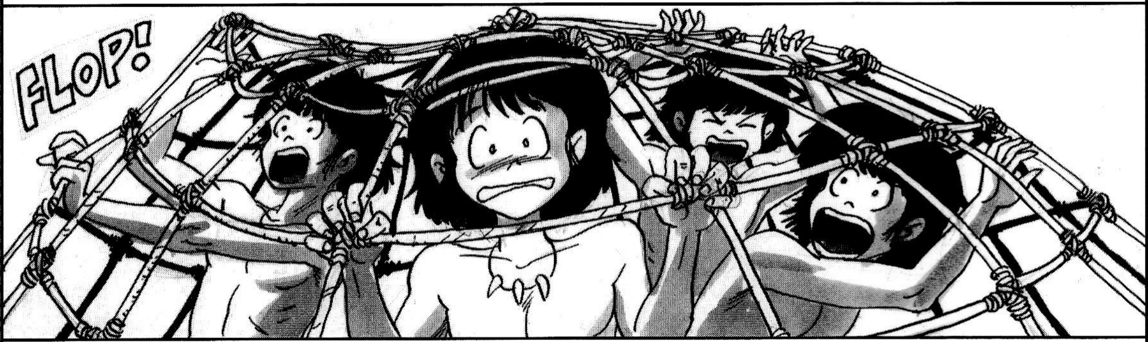

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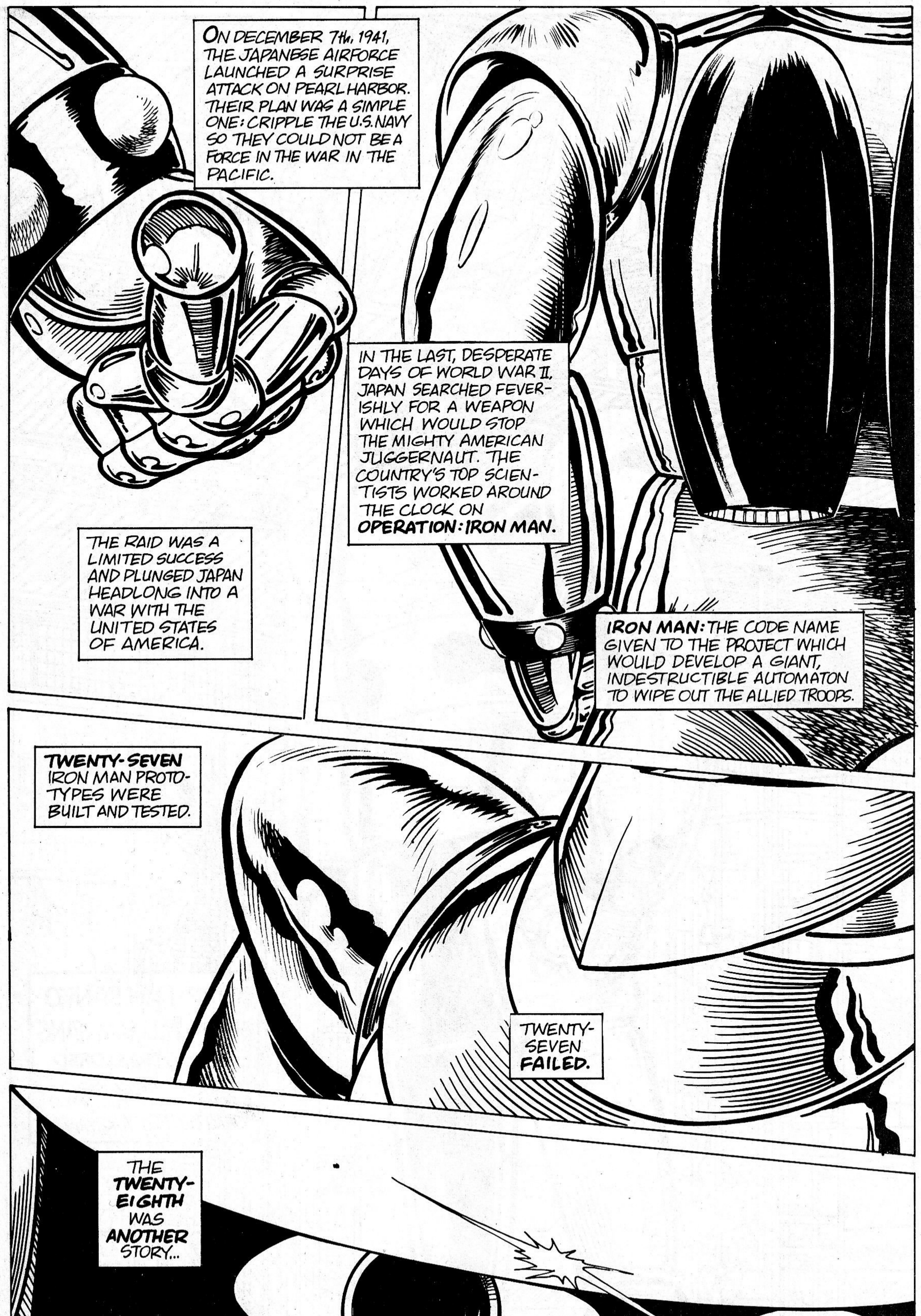
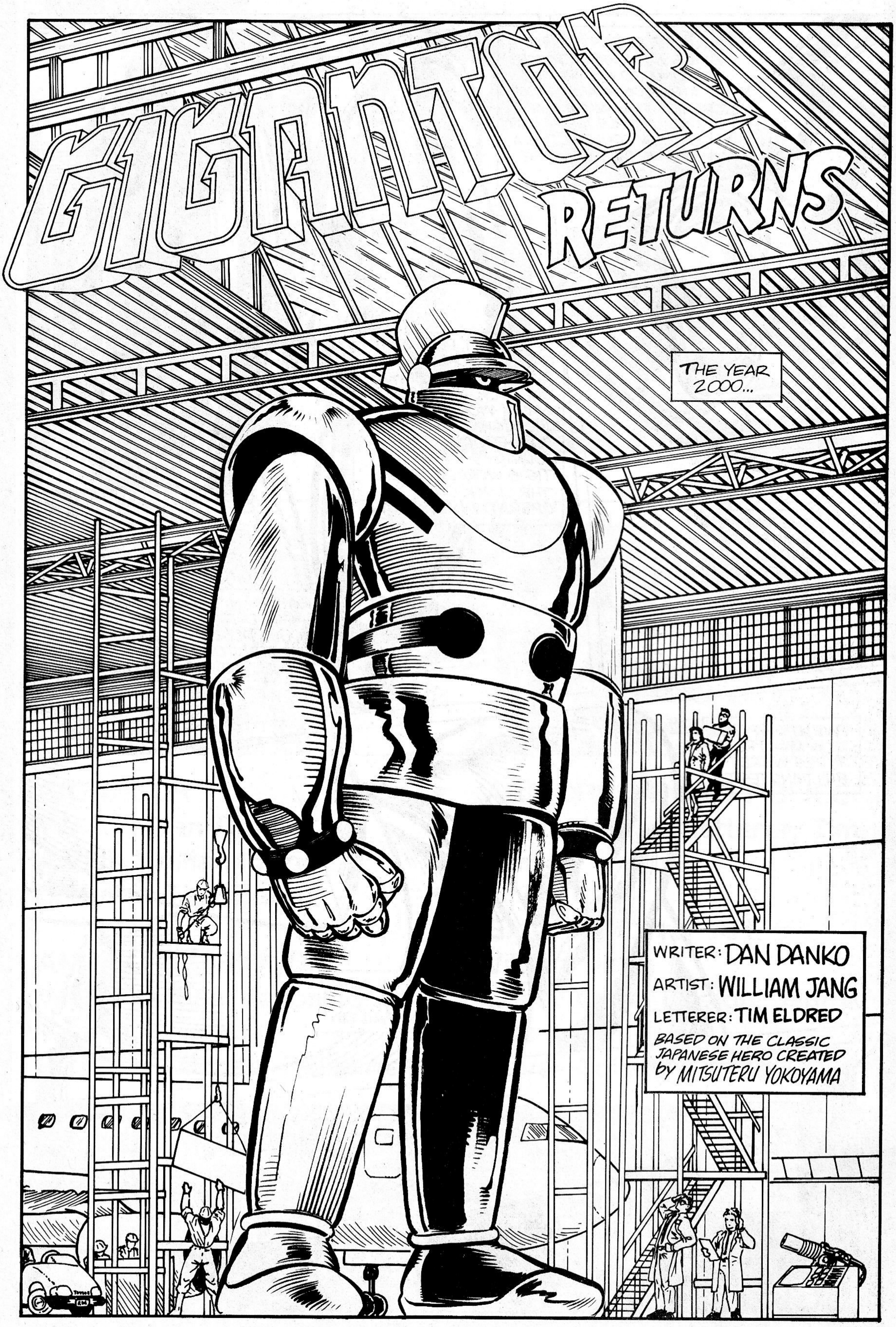

ON DECEMBER 7th, 1941, THE JAPANESE AIRFORCE LAUNCHED A SURPRISE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR. THEIR PLAN WAS A SIMPLE ONE: CRIPPLE THE U.S. NAVY SO THEY COULD NOT BE A FORCE IN THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC.
THE RAID WAS A LIMITED SUCCESS AND PLUNGED JAPAN HEADLONG INTO A WAR WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
IN THE LAST, DESPERATE DAYS OF WORLD WAR II, JAPAN SEARCHED FEVERISHLY FOR A WEAPON WHICH WOULD STOP THE MIGHTY AMERICAN JUGGERNAUT. THE COUNTRY'S TOP SCIENTISTS WORKED AROUND THE CLOCK ON **OPERATION: IRON MAN.**
IRON MAN: THE CODE NAME GIVEN TO THE PROJECT WHICH WOULD DEVELOP A GIANT, INDESTRUCTIBLE AUTOMATON TO WIPE OUT THE ALLIED TROOPS.
TWENTY-SEVEN IRON MAN PROTOTYPES WERE BUILT AND TESTED.
TWENTY-SEVEN **FAILED.**
THE **TWENTY-EIGHTH** WAS **ANOTHER** STORY...


GIGANTOR RETURNS
THE YEAR 2000...
WRITER: DAN DANKO
ARTIST: WILLIAM JANG
LETTERER: TIM ELDRED
BASED ON THE CLASSIC JAPANESE HERO CREATED by MITSUTERU YOKOYAMA

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HE WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO BE A WEAPON OF DESTRUCTION, AND NOW WE WORK SIDE BY SIDE WITH ITS CREATORS, TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT MAKES HIM TICK.
WAS HE EVER ACTUALLY USED IN THE WAR, PROFESSOR SPARKS?
NO...ONLY TESTED. THE WAR ENDED BEFORE GOOD OL' IRON MAN 28 HERE WAS EVER PUT INTO ACTION.
IRON MAN 28. EVEN THE NAME IS AS ARCHAIC AS THE MOTIVATION WHICH FORGED HIS CREATION. WHY IS THE MIND OF MAN SO WILLING TO DESTROY... SO SLOW TO CREATE?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WITH US, SMITS?
ABOUT A MONTH, PROFESSOR. WHY DO YOU ASK?
BECAUSE I THINK IT'S TIME TO BRING YOU UP TO SPEED ON THIS PROJECT. I--
HERE IT IS...
"GIGANTOR"?
GIGANTOR
YES. THAT'S THE NAME MY SON JIMMY GAVE HIM. BECAUSE OF HIS RELATION TO ME, SCI-TECH CORPORATION LETS HIM HANG AROUND THE COMPLEX...
AS LONG AS HE STAYS OUT OF TROUBLE.
HE THOUGHT IRON MAN 28 WAS TOO "CREEPY." BESIDES, "GIGANTOR" IS MUCH BETTER, AND THE NAME JUST SEEMED TO STICK.
IN THE FINAL DAYS OF THE WAR, PROFESSOR AKIRA KOBASOSHI FINALLY CREATED A WEAPON WHICH LIVED UP TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF HIS SUPERIORS. BUT WHEN KOBASOSHI DIED IN THE BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA, HE TOOK THE SECRETS OF GIGANTOR WITH HIM.
NO ONE ELSE KNEW HOW TO WORK KOBASOSHI'S CREATION.

BUT WHY HAS IT TAKEN ALMOST 60 **YEARS** FOR IRON MA-- "**GIGANTOR**" TO RESURFACE?
WORLD WAR II IS A TIME IN HISTORY **MANY** OF US WISH TO FORGET. ONCE IT ENDED, PROJECTS LIKE GIGANTOR JUST SEEMED TO GET **MOTHBALLED** FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER.
IN ANY CASE, **GIGANTOR** IS SCI-TECH'S NOW, AND WE'RE MAKING **GREAT** STRIDES.
WE'VE FINALLY LOCATED THE RESONANT WAVELENGTH GIGANTOR OPERATES ON, AND WE **BELIEVE** WE'VE TRANSLATED HIS COMMAND CODES.
MY MUG
AS A MATTER OF FACT, A PROTO-TYPE **CONTROL BOX** HAS FINALLY BEEN COMPLETED, AND THE FIRST TESTS ARE GOING--
PROFESSOR SPARKS! THE COMPLEX IS UNDER ATTACK BY UNKNOWN FORCES!
WE'VE GOT TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE!

MY GOD!
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
UNGH!
ZZZZACK!
DO WE KNOW WHO THEY ARE, OR HOW THEY GOT IN?
LOOK OUT!
ZZZAP!
NO, SIR!
TEN MINUTES AGO, OUR COMM LINES BLIPPED OUT FOR SHORTLY OVER TWO MINUTES.
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE NET-WORK WAS FUNCTIONAL, WE WERE AMBUSHED ON RED LEVEL. COM-MUNICATIONS TO ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF RED LEVEL ARE STILL CUT OFF. RED LEVEL IS PREPARED FOR SMALL SKIRMISH ACTION, BUT NOT A BLITZKRIEG OF THIS MEASURE!
WE NEED HELP -- AND FAST!
IT'S OBVIOUS THEY WANT GIGANTOR. I'VE GOT TO GET TO HIS CONTROL DEVICE!
BLAM!
LET ME GO, SIR. IT'S MUCH TOO DAN-GEROUS FOR YOU TO GO!
NO. YOU STAY HERE. I KNOW THIS COMPLEX LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND. I'LL BE ABLE TO GET THE CONTROL DEVICE AND HELP MUCH QUICK-ER THAN ANYONE ELSE.
SECURITY

ZZZINGG
ZZZINGG
ON THE COUNT OF THREE, I'M GOING TO MAKE A BREAK FOR THE DOOR. IT'S ONLY ABOUT 15 YARDS--I'M **SURE** I CAN MAKE IT.
I'LL DO MY BEST TO COVER YOU, SIR.
I'M **COUNTING** ON IT!
"ONE...
"TWO..."
THREE!
COME ON! **COME ON!** I'M ALMOST **THERE!**
ALMOST--
AAARGHH!
ZZZ ZAKK

SMITS TO SPIDER. SMITS TO SPIDER.
I HAVE THE **CODES** FOR IRON MAN 28...
AND WHAT OF PROFESSOR SPARKS?
PROFESSOR SPARKS IS NO LONGER OF ANY **CONCERN** TO US. I HAVE SEEN TO **THAT.**
ELSEWHERE IN THE COMPLEX...
I SURE HOPE DAD WILL HAVE TIME FOR **LUNCH** TODAY.
HE'S BEEN SO BUSY WITH **GI-GANTOR** LATELY, SOMETIMES I WONDER IF HE EVEN REMEMBERS HE **HAS** A SON!
SINCE **MOM** DIED, HE'S THROWN HIMSELF INTO HIS WORK. I WONDER IF HE'S TRYING TO **FORGET,** OR IF HE THINKS IT'LL BRING HER BACK.
I JUST HOPE THAT--
AAAAAH!!

NEXT ISSUE:
THE GIANT AWAKES!